

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 PC-01
OC-06 CCO-00 PER-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 MCT-01 MMO-01 AID-05
FS-01 /088 W

-----172023Z 070059 /43

O 171930Z JAN 77 ZFF RUEHC

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9256

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 124

FOR THOMPSON FROM LA SOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CASC, DM

SUBJECT: STATUS OF AMCITS AND FOREIGN NATIONAL IN COTONOU

REF: LAGOS 0502

1. THANKS YOUR CONTACTS WITH NORWEGIANS RE POSSIBLE USE THEIR SHIP FOR EVACUATION. WHILE WE WILL KEEP THAT IN MIND WE ANTICIPATE THAT SITUATION WILL SETTLE DOWN CONSIDERABLY TOMORROW AS GPRB HAS CHANCE TO PROCESS VERY LARGE NUMBER PEOPLE DETAINED YESTERDAY AND TODAY, AND EVACUATION WILL NOT BE NECESSARY.
2. NALL REPORTS SEEING MANY FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING POSSIBLY GREEK, NORWEGIAN AND GERMAN NATIONALS, DETAINED AT COMMISSARIAT AND CAMP GUEZO. WE UNABLE SUPPLY ANY NAMES OR NUMBERS THIS TIME.
3. RE WELFARE BRITISH SUBJECTS, CONSUL ADAMS TALKED ON TELEPHONE WITH
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ROSALIND EYBEN AND HARRY PENROSE AT 17:40 HRS LOCAL TODAY, AND
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PENROSE REPORTED HE HAD SEEN ALAN GILLAN AT 15:30 LOCAL AND HE WAS FINE. ADAMS ALSO REPORTS A BRITISH WRITER NAMED CHATWIN OR CHATNIN, PPT. NO. 4197406, AND A BRITISH SAILOR NAMED MICHAEL ST. JOHN SINN, OF M. V. ELPENOR, AS BEING ARRESTED. CHATWIN ARRESTED SUNDAY IN PORTO NOVO, RELEASED THIS A.M. ON INTERCESSION OF GILLAM AND PENROSE, AND LAST SEEN RETURNING TO PORTO NOVO. ST. JOHN SINN WORRIED HE MIGHT MISS HIS SHIP WHICH

DUE TO SAIL MONDAY NIGHT.

4. PC DIRECTOR AND TWO OTHER SOURCES REPORT SEEING OUTLAW AIRCRAFT LEAVING BENIN AIRPORT; SECOND AND THIRD SOURCES REPORT TIRES WERE SHOT OUT BEFORE DEPARTURE AND PLANE "LEFT" INTO AIR. MY COOK SAW PLANE LAND FROM WEST, I.E. OPPOSITE NORMAL TRAFFIC PATTERN, SAYS IT WAS SILVER ON TOP AND BOTTOM WITH BLUE BAND OR STRIPE ALONG SIDE. HE SAYS INVADERS JUMPED OUT SHOOTING. DOCTOR PUAL WILSON REPORTED SUNDAY MORNING HE WATCHED "ABOUT 30 WHITE MEN", ARMED, MOVE TOWARD TOWN THROUGH COCONUT PLANTATION ACROSS ROAD FROM HIS HOUSE, INSISTS THEY WERE CAUCASIAN, NOT ASIAN OR OTHER RACE. HE WATCHED THEM WITH BINOCULARS FROM HIS UPSTAIRS. HE SAW BLACKS MOVING WITH THEM, DRESSED IN FATIGUES AND WEARING BLUE OR YELLOW RIBBON ON EPAULET, APPARENTLY AS IDENTIFIER. MONDAY EHUZU HAS PHOTOGRAPHS OF AT LEAST ONE, PERHAPS TWO, DEAD CAUCASIANS, ALONG WITH PILES OF CAPTURED WEAPONS.

5. IF YOU SEE BENINESE AMB TELL HIM WE ARE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH MFA, STILL CONCERNED ABOUT WHEREABOUTS CRO JOHN DAVIS AND M-K EMPLOYEE DICK CONSOLINI, WHO WAS TAKEN FROM HOTEL CONCORDE SUNDAY A.M.

6. MFA TELLS ADAMS THEY CANNOT FORECAST BORDER OPENING TIME SO YOU CAN PLAN RETURN, BUT SINCE GPRB HAS NO REASON SUSPECT NIGERIAN COMPLICITY I WOULD EXPECT WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY OPENING OF THAT BORDER. HAVE ALSO INFORMED MFA VERBALLY OF LOSS YOUR ID CARD, THEY HAVE ASKED FOR OFFICIAL NOTE. WILL TRY TO GET ONE OUT ON THIS TUESDAY JAN 18.

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7. MORALE IN OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY REMAINS HIGH, WATER AND ELECTRICITY SERVICES CONTINUE, AND SOME EMBASSY RESIDENCES HAVE WORKING TELEPHONES. NEITHER EMBASSY SWITCHBOARD NOR TELEPHONE IN ADJACENT PAO RESIDENCE FUNCTIONING EXCEPT FOR THREE INCOMING CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES IN PARIS, WHICH WERE PUT THROUGH LATE SUNDAY NIGHT, AND WHICH LEAD TO CONCLUSION THAT INOPERATIVE LINES CAN BE CONNECTED WHEN IT SERVES PURPOSE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

8. TCO DUFFIELD HAS NOT BEEN OUTSIDE EMBASSY SINCE SUNDAY 0630 GMT, BUT WITH NERVOUS SOLDIERS STILL ROAMING STREETS AND HE OUR ONLY QUALIFIED TCO I AM GOING TO KEEP HIM IN TONIGHT TOO. OTHER OFFICIAL AMERICANS STILL UNDER INSTRUCTIONS STAY INSIDE EXCEPT VICE-CONSUL NALL WHO IS WORKING ON DAVIS' RELEASE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS.
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Message Attributes

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